

Our Jefferson City Letter.

Jefferson City, Mo.—Tuesday when Chief Justice James D. Fox of the Supreme Court denied Dickey's motion to dismiss the Halliburton mandamus proceedings to compel Secretary of State Roach to place the gerrymander amendment on the ballot, the Hadley-Swanger bunch of political Pharisees looked like the flayed razzles of a mis-spent life. Beaten at every turn of the game, shot full of holes by Gen. Majors legal battery, thwarted in their attempt to hang the issue up in the courts until after the November election in order to give them a bogus issue, despised by their Republican enemies and pitied by their friends because of the ignorance displayed in drawing up the petition and the stupidity manifested in its management, the gerrymanders are floating around in a legal sea of doubt, waiting to be tossed upon the beach, by the Supreme Court, as sodden driftwood to rot with other Hadley debris.

In view of the fact that Republican papers are trying to muddy the water that the voters may not see their scheme clearly, it is well to get the steps of the gerrymander definitely fixed in your think-tank. Here they are:

First. Hadley, something of an insurgent, but up against stand-pat conditions, having no taste to defend the Taft administration of extravagance nor the Payne-Aldrich tariff of robbery, casts about for a local state issue behind which he can dodge. Tries out a number of hobby-horses—discovers the Ozarks, navigates the Current river, builds a log cabin, blows a home rule bubble, etc., but finds none of them with legs strong enough to carry him through. In desperation hits upon the senatorial gerrymander, whereupon all the Hadley morning startlets sang together and shouted "Eureka!"

Second. So the gerrymander incubator is brought out by Hadley, a poor excuse of a lawyer whose assistants made for him a great reputation in the attorney general's office; heated up by Homer Hall, an employee of the state paid \$10 per day to read proof, and watched over by John E. Swanger, he of Senator Eads "king of double-cross" brand. After great labor the tripple mountain brought forth a mouse—a funny looking critter with two senators amputated from the country and annexed to the cities; a fair (God save the mark) division of the spoils with the Republicans pocketing two-thirds of the districts. True, the saints brought unclean hands to the work of reform—hands stained with the dirty legislative gerrymander of St. Louis; true, the census figures were unknown, upon which a fair apportionment alone could be made; true, such a partisan gerrymander could not hope for the popular approval at the polls; true, a Republican lawyer of state-wide reputation said that it was constitutionally unsound, but what boots obstacles when a soldier of political fortune needs a hobby-horse to ride during the campaign, and what is the constitution among Republicans?

Third. Petitions for gerrymander amendment presented to Secretary of State Roach July 6th, who refused to file same pending an opinion from Attorney General Major as to their legality. July 7th Major advised Roach that the petition was unconstitutional in at least five particulars and Roach holds them up pending decisions of supreme court, which he takes steps to obtain at once without delay.

Fourth. The gerrymanderites charge Major and Roach, through the Globe-Democrat, with blocking the initiative law, holding that it would be impossible to obtain a decision by the courts in time to get the proposed amendment on the ballot, giving in detail the Republican plan of procedure and showing thereby that the matter would drag along in the courts until after the November election.

Fifth. The gerrymanderites learn that Judge Halliburton, at the instigation of Roach's refusal to file the petitions, applied in the supreme court direct for a writ of mandamus to compel him to do so. Instead of being pleased at this evidence of Roach's good faith and the prospect for a speedy decision, the gerrymanderites were rattled, disconcerted and disappointed, declaring that the supreme court would not assume jurisdiction. But it did and set the case for July 19th.

Sixth. The gerrymanderites continued to march up hill in the Globe-Democrat every morning, and march down again in the afternoon upon catching up with the Democratic vanguard. Professing to want an immediate decision and swearing by all the legal gods in the Republican party that the petition was constitutional, the gerrymanderites go into the court of last resort, from which a final decision in a few days may be had, and ask that the mandamus proceedings be dismissed in order that they might start a suit in the lower courts that would prevent a final decision until after the November election. Of course, everybody but the gerrymanderites know that the supreme court has original jurisdiction in mandamus cases, and thus it happened that they were bawled over and served with notice that they had as well quit "horsing" around and get ready to play ball July 19th at 9 a. m.

Seventh. Major and Roach, having acted in good faith, are deserving of the gratitude of Democrats and Republicans alike—of the Democrats for having the courage to stand up against the Hadley machine and fight for their rights; of the Republicans for making it possible for them, in spite of themselves, to get their amendment on the ballot if it is drawn in accordance with the constitution. If it isn't, they have nobody to blame but themselves.

The most striking feature of the whole scheme is the impudent insincerity of the gerrymander. They know they have blundered in drawing the petition and a decision by the court is the last thing they want. All they want is an issue for gallery playing purposes, but thanks to Major and Roach they will not get it out of the gerrymander scheme.

When an office has gone out to seek a man to fill it, who ever heard of a Republican hiding out? When the office holding contagion has threatened to become epidemic, who ever heard of a Republican's being vaccinated or taking antoxin? It makes little difference what the office is, the average Republican is ready and willing to take it. Ed S. Austin, File Clerk, (whatever that is) in the insurance department, whose postoffice is given in the Blue Book as Butler, Missouri, is a member of the City Council, Jefferson City. Another member of the council is George Bartholomaeus, of Warrenton, Secretary of the Bureau of Mining and Mine Inspection. These gentlemen, doubtless, serve the city well, but they illustrate the office holding proclivities of Republicans.

It is certainly a fortunate thing for the Democracy of Missouri that there will not be much scrambling for nomination on the state, congressional, judicial or senatorial tickets. It behooves the voters, however, to use discriminating judgment in selecting candidates. It is a pretty safe course to leave off the bickering, snarling, mud throwing fellows who deal in re-creating personalities. Democracy demands a clean cam-

aign for the nomination and a hustling, shoulder to shoulder campaign for election in which every Democrat must join heartily.

"When a Missouri Republican looks back on the path his party has traveled, his bosom swells with pride," says a Republican paper. What part of the route causes the sternum upheaval? Is it the tortuous way blazed out by Count Rodman? Or perhaps it's that part of the path that runs through the jails in which ministers of the gospel were thrown for refusing to perjure themselves by taking the test oath? Can it be that the thirty odd million dollars debt piled up by the Republicans causes the bosom to go on a rampage? This is about all there is of the Republican record in Missouri and the bosom is easy satisfied that will do any swelling because of it.

Whenever you find a man whooping it up for the G. O. P. in Missouri, ask him what's his graft. Swanger is bank commissioner; Lake, coal oil inspector; Hall, proof-reader for the revision committee—these three had fingers in the gerrymander pie. And so you will find the state paying for the time of the Republicans who are running the party. Even Ben Deering, the fellow who gets out the Republican dope sheet, is deputy factory inspector. It's pretty hard on the taxpayers to pay a lot of fellows to pay politics, but that's what it has come to under an administration where the governor makes the people pay his servants board bill.

It is intimated that Gov. Harmon of Ohio will be offered the Chief Justiceship of the Supreme Court. This is about the only way he could be defeated for re-election to the governorship in Ohio.

H. M. Peck of Oklahoma City arrived Wednesday evening to visit friends for a few days. Miss Nell Marrs left Thursday for a visit in Joplin with friends.

Judge Richard Field went to Kansas City Thursday on legal business.

C. A. Keith went to Kansas City Thursday on legal business.

Mrs. Patrick Martin and little daughters, Misses Mary and Naomi, returned Tuesday evening from a visit in Kansas City with relatives.

Mrs. Geo. Stewart of Winton spent Thursday in Lexington.

Dr. F. L. Carter was fishing in the vicinity of Higginsville Thursday.

Capt. Ryland Todhunter went to Kansas City Wednesday to spend the day.

John I. Ashurst, the veteran contractor went to Aullville this morning with a force of men to begin work on the Davis Creek Drainage Ditch.

Miss Clella Brooks returned Tuesday evening from a visit at Lewis Station, Mo.

H. F. Backwell went to Kansas City Wednesday on legal business.

Miss Florence Barron went to Kansas City Wednesday for a few days' visit.

Oscar Thomas went to Kansas City Wednesday to spend the day.

F. T. Hix returned Wednesday evening from a short stay in Excelsior Springs.

E. M. Taubman went to Kansas City Thursday morning to spend the day on business.

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Sire of A. G. Wiley 2:24, at 2 years old, A. G. 2-year-old trial 2:24, and second in Missouri State Fair Futurity in 2:24. Victor A. trial 2:30; Mare chance, 2-year-old, half in 1:48.
Dark brown stallion 15 1/2 hands high, weighs 1100 pounds, sired by Wilkes Boy 2:24 the sire of over 100 in 2:30 including Courier Journal 2:06, Judge Swing 2:04, York Boy 2:04; also Constantine 2:12, a great sire; Grattan 2:13, a great sire, and Orotorio 2:13, a great sire. 1st dam Bessie Barron by Baron Wilkes 2:18, a great sire; 2nd dam Black Bess 2:22; dam of Baronaise 2:24, Baritone 2:24, and Risky, second in Kentucky Futurity in 2:14 at 3 years old; by Wellington 2:16, 3rd dam Strathlen, (dam of Black Bess 2:24) by Strathmore 4:08, 4th dam Patchine (dam of Prince Albert 2:24 etc.) by Mambrino Patchen 5:58.

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